

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3189

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005

INCREASING LEVEL OF PRODUCTION IN CORE SECTOR

Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether enterprises in core sector need to raise the level of production in order to increase the rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the enterprises included in the core sector so far;
- (d) the reasons for non-inclusion of irrigation sector in the core sector;
- (e) whether improvement and expansion of irrigation system is imperative for the development of agriculture; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN)

- (a): Yes, Sir. In order that the economy grows at the rate of at least 7 to 8 per cent per year in a sustained manner, it is essential that core sector enterprises are enabled to realize their intrinsic growth and employment potential.
- (b): The Government is committed to take all necessary steps to put the core sector on a robust footing through a wide range of policies, programmes and projects.
- (c): NTPC, ONGC, IOC, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL, CIL, SAIL, RINL are some identified Central Public Sector Enterprises in the core sector. This is not exhaustive listing as others are free to invest in core sector subject to sectoral guidelines.
- (d) to (f): Irrigation is an extremely important component of rural infrastructure, and improvement and expansion of irrigation system is imperative for development of agriculture. In order to give this sector appropriate focus, a Committee on Rural Infrastructure has been set up. The National Common Minimum Programme has identified irrigation as one of the areas of highest priority. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme has been assisting the State Governments in completing `last mile` irrigation projects. The budget for this programme has been substantially increased from Rs.2800 crore in 2004-05 to Rs.4800 crore in 2005-06. A Pilot Scheme for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies has been approved and Rs.100 crore has been provided in 2005-06. To improve water use efficiency in agriculture, micro irrigation is being promoted and Rs.400 crore has been provided for this in 2005-06.